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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF PORTO RICO
Office of the Commissioner
San Juan

Circular Letter No. 19

September 17, 1908

To Supervising Principals:-

(Paragraphs two and three)

During the vacation weeks, about the only rule which affected the situation in any way was that regarding Supervising Principals under which it is specified that they are not to leave their respective districts without authorization from the Department. I understand that it has been the rule that one desiring to leave his district should plan ahead of time, request permission by letter, stating reasons and not wait until the last minute and then telegraph. (See Circular Letter No. 557 dated February 13, 1908). Almost without exception Supervising Principals have complied with this ruling during the vacation weeks. In two or three cases permission to leave districts has been refused, owing to work that required his presence within his district, but in those cases permission was granted to leave the district as soon as the pressure of work in the district lessened.

I am aware that last year, when there were only nineteen Superintendents, the Commissioner did not wish to have this rule considered too rigid. Now there are thirty-five Supervising Principals. The General Superintendents are sent out to inspect schools in districts specified. They do not have permission to leave those districts until instructions from this office are received. Knowledge of things which need investigation, we may write or telegraph them at any time to proceed elsewhere. Hence, if the Supervising Principals of the districts to which they are sent are out of their districts, the travel expense, the salary and per diem of the General Superintendents will be wasted, and the work of the Department set back. It, therefore, seems imperative that the Rule printed in 1907 School Law, with the interpretation of same, as stated in Circular Letter of February 13, 1908; shall be considered in force from this date.

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. D. Haddock
Acting Commissioner